

Superstitions-1931

CHARLOTTE, N. C. OBSERVER

MAY 20 1931

THE NEGRO OUT OF ENVIRONMENT.

The Southern negro under intelligent guidance of his "white folks" friends, has been long since delivered from the superstitions that once surrounded him, and even the "hoodoo" bag has disappeared, but the negro transplanted to the North and removed from the influences exerted by the white people who understand his foibles and failings, and who exercise a loving solicitude in his welfare, appears to have relapsed into the condition from which the negro left in the South has been rescued. An incident of the week at the New Jersey town of Orange will serve to illustrate the point. A negro preacher named Russ has been conducting a "revival" at his church, at which he developed a test case of "faith." He induced a colored brother to deliver himself for the purpose of being "buried alive," in triumphant proof of faith. After he had been buried, according to the program mapped out by the preacher, he was to make knocks on his coffin and would then be dug up and exhibited as the man who had been buried and who was resurrected by the power of faith. The interment was duly made and the preacher stood by listening. As the hours passed and no knocking was heard, the preacher weakened and informed the police of the situation. A squad of gravediggers hurried to the spot and dug him up. The victim, being uncoffined, was unconscious, but still faintly breathing, and after diligent use of inhalators he was brought around in good shape. The police, puzzled by the extraordinary case, canvassed among themselves the matter as to what they should do about it, and finally concluded to place both preacher and faith victim under arrest on the general charge of "suspicion," when neither was guilty of any thing more serious than an adventure in superstition.

Voodoo Worshipers Kill Child to Obtain Blood

HAVANA, Cuba (CNS) — Voodoo worshipers are reported to have slain a small boy to obtain human blood for use in an alleged curing potion, it was learned here last Sunday.

Secret police arrested Jose Caridad Dounny and Gregerio Fuentes. The police said the men confessed that they killed the child for his blood. They were declared to have said they made a mixture of blood, pebbles and herbs and administered it to Josefa Quintana. The report said Quintana died.

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